

September 27, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) writes today in support of the bipartisan “Drug Quality and Security Act” introduced by Energy & Commerce Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman. This compromise proposal provides a balanced and effective approach to address critical and complex issues surrounding compounded medications, as well as strengthening our nation’s pharmaceutical supply chain. NCPA applauds the House for moving this legislation in expeditious fashion, and urge members to vote in favor of this bipartisan compromise.

NCPA represents the interests of pharmacist owners, managers, and employees of more than 23,000 independent community pharmacies across the United States. Independent community pharmacies dispense approximately 40% of the nation’s retail prescription drugs, and almost 86% of independent community pharmacies compound. Compounding is the backbone of pharmacy practice. When off-the-shelf manufactured drugs are not an option, community pharmacists prepare or compound customized medications for individual patients. NCPA commends the Congress for crafting bipartisan legislation that addresses the New England Compounding Center (NECC) tragedy, ensures quality standards for all compounded pharmaceuticals, and maintains patient access to vital compounded medications.

NCPA also supports efforts to strengthen our nation’s pharmaceutical supply chain through passage of strong security provisions. Small business community pharmacies already struggle to meet many regulatory requirements and can ill afford needless new mandates. Fortunately, this legislation takes this into consideration so pharmacists can focus on patients. We applaud Congress for crafting a single, uniform national supply chain solution that will establish one rigorous standard that will extend from coast to coast and provide greater safeguards for consumers.

Independent pharmacies have a long and successful history of protecting patient safety while preserving patient access to vital medications. This compromise legislation addresses the issues that led to the NECC tragedy, protects the physician-patient-pharmacist relationship, maintains critical patient access to compounded medications, and strengthens the pharmaceutical supply chain.

Sincerely,



B. Douglas Hoey, R.Ph., M.B.A

Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman, Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives